

REMARKS

Responsive to the Office Action mailed October 28, 2008, Applicants provide the following. Claims 1, 6-11, 26-27, 30, 32-35, 37-40 and 43-44 have been amended without adding any new matter. Support for the amendments can be found in the specification and the claims as originally filed. Claims 3, 12-26, 29, 31, 36 and 41 were previously canceled. Therefore Twenty Three (23) claims remain pending in the application: Claims 1, 2, 4-11, 26-28, 30, 32-35, 37-40, 42-44. Reconsideration of claims 1, 2, 4-11, 26-28, 30, 32-35, 37-40, 42-44 in view of the amendments above and remarks below is respectfully requested.

By way of this amendment, Applicants have made a diligent effort to place the claims in condition for allowance. However, should there remain any outstanding issues, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner telephone the undersigned at (858) 552-1311 so that such issues may be resolved as expeditiously as possible.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. §112

Claims 1, 11 and 26 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. Applicants have amended claims 1, 11 and 26 to overcome these rejections. As such, Applicants respectfully request that these rejections be withdrawn.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 1-2, 6, 9-11, 30, 32, 35 and 37 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,628,313 to Minakuchi et al. in view of "Merriam Webster's Collegiate Dictionary, Tenth Edition", and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,946,142 to Hirata et al. Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections and submit that the above combination fails to describe or suggest each limitation as recited in at least independent claims 1, 11.

Specifically, with respect to claim 1, the Minakuchi and Hirata patents fail to describe or suggest "simultaneously displaying a second content on an outside surface of a physical spherical display surface of the display, wherein the spherical display surface is

convex.” The Examiner suggests that Minakuchi suggests that the Minakuchi virtual sphere is presented on a physical display surface (Office Action, pg. 6). However, Minakuchi does not describe or suggest such a physical spherical display. Specifically, Minakuchi discloses an information retrieval method and apparatus that includes displaying information on a virtual sphere. The virtual sphere 202 is displayed on a display screen, and as shown in FIG. 5, the sphere is merely virtual (see Minakuchi col. 8, lines 63-67).

Similarly Hirata does not describe or suggest “simultaneously displaying a second content on an outside surface of a physical spherical display surface of the display, wherein the spherical display surface is convex” as recited in at least claim 1. In fact, the spherical lenses of Hirata which the Examiner cites to are used for a “projection lens system” and are not a display surface (see for example, Fig 28 and the accompanying description). The spherically shaped lenses of Hirata are used as the projection lens system 17 within the image display system of Fig. 28. In fact, the transmission type screen 16 of Hirata is the only display surface described in Hirata, and is displayed as a flat display surface (see, col. 35, lines 17-27). Therefore, the combination of the Hirata and Minakuchi patents fails to describe or suggest each limitation as described in at least claim 1.

Furthermore, Webster also fails to describe or suggest “simultaneously displaying a second content on an outside surface of a physical spherical display surface of the display, wherein the spherical display surface is convex.” As such, the above cited combination fails to render claim 1 obvious, and thus, Applicants respectfully request that the rejections to claim 1 be withdrawn.

Independent claim 11 recites language similar to that of claim 1, at least with respect to the physical spherical display surface, therefore, claim 11 is also not anticipated by the above cited combination. As such, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection to claim 11 be withdrawn.

Claims 2, 6, 9, 10, 30, 32, 35 and 37 depend upon claims 1 and 11, and as such are allowable at least due to their dependence upon allowable claims. As such, Applicants respectfully request that the rejections to these claims be withdrawn.

Claim 5 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), as being unpatentable over Minakuchi, Webster and Hirata and in further view of U.S. Patent No. 7,107,516 to Anderson et al. Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections and submit that the above combination fails to render claim 5 obvious.

Claim 5 depends upon allowable independent Claim 1. As such, claim 5 is allowable at least due to its dependence upon allowable claim 1. Further, Anderson fails to describe or suggest “simultaneously displaying a second content on an outside surface of a physical spherical display surface of the display, wherein the spherical display surface is convex.” As such, claim 5 is not rendered obvious by the cited combination. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection be withdrawn.

Claim 4 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), as being unpatentable over Minakuchi, Webster and Hirata and in further view of PCT Publication No. WO 02/21529 to Barbieri. Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections and submit that the above combination fails to render claim 4 obvious.

Claim 4 depends upon allowable independent Claim 1. As such, claim 4 is allowable at least due to its dependence upon allowable claim 1. Further, Barbieri fails to describe or suggest “simultaneously displaying a second content on an outside surface of a physical spherical display surface of the display, wherein the spherical display surface is convex.” As such, claim 4 is not rendered obvious by the cited combination. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection be withdrawn.

Claims 7-8 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), as being unpatentable over Minakuchi, Webster and Hirata and in further view of U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0030665 to Ano. Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections and submit that the above combination fails to render claims 7 and 8 obvious.

Claim 7 and 8 depend upon allowable independent Claim 1. As such, claims 7 and 8 are allowable at least due to their dependence upon allowable claim 1. Further, Ano fails to describe or suggest “simultaneously displaying a second content on an outside surface of a

physical spherical display surface of the display, wherein the spherical display surface is convex.” As such, claims 7 and 8 are not rendered obvious by the cited combination. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request that the rejections be withdrawn.

Claims 33 and 38 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), as being unpatentable over Minakuchi, Webster, Hirata and Barbieri in further view of U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2004/0264579 to Bhatia et al. Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections and submit that the above combination fails to render claims 33 and 38 obvious.

Claims 33 and 38 depend upon allowable independent Claims 1 and 11. As such, claims 33 and 38 are allowable at least due to their dependence upon allowable claims 1 and 11. Further, Bhatia fails to describe or suggest “simultaneously displaying a second content on an outside surface of a physical spherical display surface of the display, wherein the spherical display surface is convex.” As such, claims 33 and 38 are not rendered obvious by the cited combination. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request that the rejections be withdrawn.

Claims 34 and 39 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), as being unpatentable over Minakuchi, Webster, Hirata, Anderson and Barbieri and in further view of U.S. Application Publication No. 2003/0146915 to Brook et al. Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections and submit that the above combination fails to render claims 34 and 39 obvious.

Claims 34 and 39 depend upon allowable independent Claims 1 and 11. As such, claims 34 and 39 are allowable at least due to their dependence upon allowable claims 1 and 11. Further, Brook fails to describe or suggest “simultaneously displaying a second content on an outside surface of a physical spherical display surface of the display, wherein the spherical display surface is convex.” As such, claims 34 and 39 are not rendered obvious by the cited combination. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request that the rejections be withdrawn.

Claims 26-28 and 40 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), as being unpatentable over Minakuchi, Webster, Hirata, Anderson and Barbieri and in further view of Ano. Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections and submit that the above combination

fails to render claims 26-28 and 40 obvious.

Independent claim 26 recites language similar to that of claim 1, as described above neither of the references cited by the Examiner describe or suggest “simultaneously displaying a second content on an outside surface of a physical spherical display surface of the display, wherein the spherical display surface is convex.” As such, independent claim 26 is not rendered obvious by the cited combination. As such, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection to claim 26 be withdrawn.

Claims 27, 28 and 40 depend from independent claim 26, and as such, are allowable at least due to their dependence upon allowable claim 26. As such, Applicants respectfully request that the rejections to these claims be withdrawn.

Claim 42 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), as being unpatentable over Minakuchi, Webster, Hirata, Anderson and Barbieri and Ano. Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections and submit that the above combination fails to render claim 42 obvious.

Claim 42 depends from independent claim 26, and as such, is allowable at least due to its dependence upon allowable claim 26. As such, Applicants respectfully request that the rejections to claim 42 be withdrawn.

Claim 43 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), as being unpatentable over Minakuchi, Webster, Hirata, Anderson and Barbieri and in further view of Ano and in further view of Bhatia. Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections and submit that the above combination fails to render claim 43 obvious.

Claim 42 depends from independent claim 26, and as such, is allowable at least due to its dependence upon allowable claim 26. Furthermore, as discussed above Bhatia fails to describe or suggest “simultaneously displaying a second content on an outside surface of a physical spherical display surface of the display, wherein the spherical display surface is convex.” As such, Applicants respectfully request that the rejections to claim 42 be withdrawn.

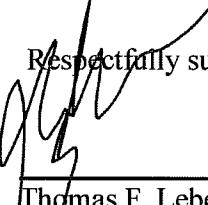
Claim 44 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), as being unpatentable over Minakuchi, Webster, Hirata, Anderson and Barbieri and Ano and in further view of Brook.

Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections and submit that the above combination fails to render claim 44 obvious.

Claim 44 depends from independent claim 26, and as such, is allowable at least due to its dependence upon allowable claim 26. Furthermore, as discussed above Brook fails to describe or suggest “simultaneously displaying a second content on an outside surface of a physical spherical display surface of the display, wherein the spherical display surface is convex.” As such, Applicants respectfully request that the rejections to claim 44 be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

Applicants submit that the above amendments and remarks place the pending claims in a condition for allowance. Therefore, a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.


Respectfully submitted,

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